circumferentially extending portions of the stator itself; wherein the stator has a preset number of angular regions of the same peripheral angular extent which adjoin one another in a circumferential direction of the stator; wherein each of the predetermined number of angular regions of the rotor has at least one pair of flux guidance regions facing the stator, the flux guidance regions having flux guidance properties which differ in a main direction of the rotary magnetic field; wherein each of the preset number of angular regions of the stator has at least one pair of flux guidance regions facing the rotor which have flux guidance properties which differ in the main direction of the rotary magnetic field; wherein the flux guidance regions with low magnetic resistance of the stator are located radially inwardly of the partially closed slots; and wherein the preset number of angular regions on the stator differs from the predetermined number of angular regions on the rotor by an integral multiple of the number of poles of the three-phase current stator winding.

REMARKS

By the above actions, claim 1 have been further amended. In view of these actions and the following remarks, further consideration of this application is now requested.

Claims 1-11, 13-21 and 23-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as containing new matter. However, in view of the deletion of the language concerning the coils being distributed over the entire periphery of the stator, it is believed that this rejection is no longer appropriate and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 18 and 20 continue to be rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102/103 as being anticipated by the disclosure of the Maeder patent, while the remaining claims (except for allowed claim 22) have been rejected based upon the Maeder patent when viewed in combination with one of the other cited references.

Firstly, it appears that the Examiner's Action has been based on the Amendment After Final which was refused entry and was ***not*** requested to be entered on filing of the RCE, and does not address the Amendment filed with the RCE. The reason for this conclusion is that the Examiner's rejections and arguments focus entirely on the positions presented in the Amendment After Final and do not in any way address either the language added to claim 1 in Applicant's Amendment that was filed with the RCE or the comments presented as to how the Amendments filed with the RCE distinguish the invention from the prior art. Thus, the

points raised in the preceding Amendment are reiterated below and it is requested that the Examiner respond to these issues in his next Action.

In particular, the Examiner's is again attention is directed to a copy of an extract of the text *Die Asynchronmachine* (The Asynchronous Machine) by W. Nürnberg, published in 1963 and the underlined portion thereof on page 13 which translated into English reads "The hole number of a three-phase current motor indicates the number of slots per pole and phase. It is an important value and is named q" submitted with applicant's Amendment of January, 2002. Additionally, as can be derived from equation 4.3 on page 150 of the text appended to applicant's preceding Amendment filed with the RCE on November 1, 2002, *Elekrische Maschinen* (Electric Machines) by Rolf Fischer, published in 1989, that the relationship between poles **p**, holes **q**, slots **N**, & phases **m**, can be expressed as $N = 2p \cdot m \cdot q$. Thus, a four pole, three-phase stator winding with 2 holes has 24 slots as described in the first paragraph of the "Detailed Description..." on page 11. Furthermore, that the meaning of the term "hole" as used in the specification is intended to a hole **q** (i.e., the number of slots per pole and phase) is not only clear from the context of usage of this term, but is also explicit from the statement "two holes q=2," on page 14, line 28.

The above language of currently amended claim 1 is designed to insure that claim 1 is interpreted consistent with its intended meaning and that as language is used in art to make it very clear that the Maeder does not disclose the present invention. That is, the Maeder patent clearly has a hole number **q** (for the 12 slot stator illustrated in Fig. 2) that is equal to 1 (i.e., $q = N/2p \cdot m = 12/2 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 = 1$) and not 2 as in applicant's first embodiment or 4 as in applicant's second embodiment.

Since Maeder does not teach the claimed reluctance motor with a stator having a hole number greater than 1, it cannot anticipate claim 1 as now presented so that the rejection under § 102 based on the Maeder patent should be withdrawn. Likewise, since Maeder does not teach the type of reluctance motor claimed, the other references relied upon by the Examiner for ancillary features cannot serve to render the present invention obvious in combination with the Maeder patent so that the rejections under § 103 should also be withdrawn.

In view of the actions taken, the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance in the absence of any new and more pertinent prior art being discovered. However, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new

issues arise, which could be eliminated through discussions with applicant's representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARK-UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

1. (Fourth Amendment) Reluctance motor with a stator comprising a three-phase current stator winding with a number of poles for generating a rotary magnetic field without electronic switching and with a number of slots per pole and phase that is greater than 1, coils being assigned to each of the three phases with the coils being distributed in the slots [over the entire periphery] of the stator and a rotor which is located on a shaft and is made primarily of a ferromagnetic material, the rotor having a predetermined number of angular regions of a like peripheral angular extent which adjoin one another in a circumferential direction of the rotor; wherein slots receiving the three-phase current stator windings are partially closed by circumferentially extending portions of the stator itself; wherein the stator has a preset number of angular regions of the same peripheral angular extent which adjoin one another in a circumferential direction of the stator; wherein each of the predetermined number of angular regions of the rotor has at least one pair of flux guidance regions facing the stator, the flux guidance regions having flux guidance properties which differ in a main direction of the rotary magnetic field; wherein each of the preset number of angular regions of the stator has at least one pair of flux guidance regions facing the rotor which have flux guidance properties which differ in the main direction of the rotary magnetic field; wherein the flux guidance regions with low magnetic resistance of the stator are located radially inwardly of the partially closed slots; and wherein the preset number of angular regions on the stator differs from the predetermined number of angular regions on the rotor by an integral multiple of the number of poles of the three-phase current stator winding.